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FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
FEB 02 2021
SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON DEPUTY

9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 CONNOR ADRIAN POTUCEK,

15 Defendant.

2:21-CR-11-WFN

INDICTMENT

Vio: 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)
False Statement to Federal
Agency

16 The Grand Jury charges:

17 1. At all times relevant to this Indictment, the Defendant, CONNOR
18 ADRIAN POTUCEK was a resident of Spokane, Washington.

19 2. At all times relevant to this Indictment, B.H. was a registered nurse,
20 licensed in the State of Washington, and employed as a nurse at the Mann-
21 Grandstaff Veteran Affairs Medical Center ("Spokane VAMC") in Spokane,
22 Washington.

23 3. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") is a
24 department and agency within the executive branch of the Government of the
25 United States. It provides life-long healthcare services to eligible military veterans
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1 at Veterans Affairs medical centers and outpatient clinics throughout the United
2 States.

3 4. The Spokane VAMC is operated by the VA and is located in Spokane,
4 Washington. The Spokane VAMC is dedicated to providing health care services to
5 veterans.

6 5. The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (“IG Act”) authorizes
7 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General
8 (“VA OIG”) to receive and investigate complaints or information concerning,
9 among other things, the possible existence of criminal activity or a substantial and
10 specific danger to public health or safety.

11 6. The Hotline Division is a component of the VA OIG Office of
12 Management and Administration and is responsible for receiving and investigating
13 allegations of criminal activity and other matters related to VA programs and
14 operations. Accordingly, the VA OIG hotline accepts complaints of such activity
15 related to VA programs and operations. Hotline staff log all complaints and may
16 follow up for additional details if contact information is provided. Given limited
17 resources, the VA OIG cannot investigate every complaint. Cases are selected
18 following a staff review, with priority given to matters having the most potential
19 risk to veterans, VA programs and systems, or for which the VA OIG may be the
20 only avenue of redress.

21 7. An individual may file a complaint with the VA OIG Hotline
22 Complaint Center via facsimile, telephone, U.S. Mail, or electronic transmission to
23 a publically-accessible internet portal known as OIG Hotline Link. When a
24 person electronically files a complaint through the OIG Hotline Link portal, it is
25 known as a “Web Complaint.”

26 8. According to <https://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/faq.asp>, a complaint
27 filed with the OIG Hotline Complaint Center should include the following
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1 information in order for the VA OIG to determine whether it warrants review or
2 investigation by the VA OIG: the particular VA facility or office involved; the
3 identity of the wrongdoer(s) and victim(s); the alleged legal or policy violation(s)
4 or other misconduct; the effect of the wrongdoing, such as money lost, individuals
5 harmed; the date(s) the event(s) occurred; the identity of any witness(es) to the
6 event(s); and contact information for complainants choosing to provide a name.

7 9. After the OIG Hotline Complaint Center staff determine that a
8 complaint is within the VA OIG's jurisdiction and includes sufficient information
9 to inform further action, a determination is made whether to open a case or make a
10 referral.

11 10. Among the complaints received by the OIG Hotline Complaint Center
12 that the VA OIG opens for further review are those that concern serious allegations
13 of criminal activity. The nature of the allegations in a complaint received by the
14 OIG Hotline Complaint Center determine which VA OIG division(s) would
15 manage the case. The VA OIG may refer certain matters directly to the
16 appropriate VA office if the allegation appears to warrant some action on that
17 facility's or office's part to move forward. A case referral from the VA OIG
18 requires that the VA office or facility to which the matter is referred review the
19 matter and responded back to the VA OIG about its findings and any actions taken.

20 11. On or about August 22, 2020, the Defendant, CONNOR ADRIAN
21 POTUCEK, in a matter within the executive branch of the Government of the
22 United States, namely the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Office of
23 Inspector General, did knowingly and willfully make false, fictitious, and
24 fraudulent statements and representations as to material facts in that he did
25 represent and state to the VA's OIG Hotline Complaint Center, via the OIG
26 Hotline Link portal, the following statements about an employee of the Spokane
27 VAMC:
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Web Complaint Section Headings	Statements and Representations
Facility Involved	ICU nurse [B.H.] in Spokane, Washington regularly consumes non-prescription pharmaceuticals.
Wrongdoer(s)	[B.H.]
Victims	All Members of armed services who think they have a sober nurse.
Allegations	Hydrocodone abuse, oxycontin abuse, modafinil abuse.
Impact	Theft from patients in need, impaired productivity.
Offense Dates	Since [B.H.] started, other employees have given her clean urine.

whereas in truth and fact, the Defendant, CONNOR ADRIAN POTUCEK, then and there well knew, these statements and representations were false, fictitious and fraudulent when made.

12. When the Defendant, CONNOR ADRIAN POTUCEK, made the statements set forth in Paragraph 11 of this Indictment (the “August 22, 2020 Web Complaint”) about an employee of the Spokane VAMC, he was in the District of Idaho.

13. The August 22, 2020 Web Complaint was received at the OIG Hotline Complaint Center in Washington, D.C. After a review of the August 22, 2020 Web Complaint, staff at the OIG Hotline Complaint Center forwarded the August 22, 2020 Web Complaint to the VA OIG Spokane Resident Office, in the Eastern District of Washington, for investigation on September 17, 2020.

14. On September 21, 2020, the Defendant, CONNOR ADRIAN POTUCEK, was contacted by VA OIG Special Agents about the August 22, 2020

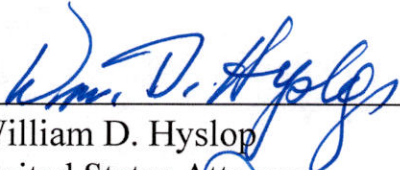
1 Web Complaint. Special Agents with the VA OIG then interviewed the
2 Defendant, CONNOR ADRIAN POTUCEK, in Spokane, Washington, in the
3 Eastern District of Washington, whereupon the Defendant admitted that the
4 statements he made in the August 22, 2020 Web Complaint were false, fictitious
5 and fraudulent when made.

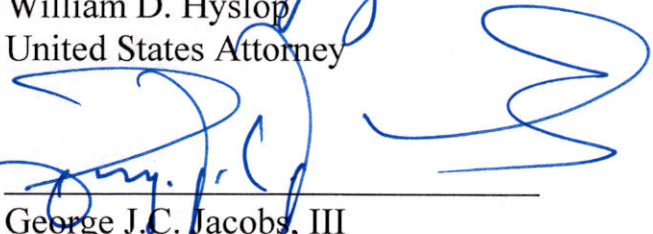
6 All in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2).

7 DATED this 2 day of February, 2021.

8
9 A TRUE BILL

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12 Foreperson

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16 William D. Hyslop
17 United States Attorney

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19 George J.C. Jacobs, III
20 Assistant United States Attorney
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